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Twenty-five years of Health & Place: citation classics, internationalism and interdisciplinarity

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Abstract

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Twenty-five years of Health & Place: citation classics, internationalism and interdisciplinarity

Cover letter

Dear Jamie

I have incorporated all your suggestions in this uploaded version. I can submit the graphics separately if required but for now this is 'submit as you wish'

Best wishes

Graham

Twenty-five years of Health & Place: citation classics, internationalism and interdisciplinarity

Highlights

- Identifies most cited papers in Health & Place between 1995 and 2018
- Assesses international origin of all submitted paper between 1995 and 2018
- Analyses interdisciplinary reach of Health & Place
- Identifies key current and emerging research themes

Twenty-five years of Health & Place: citation classics, internationalism and interdisciplinarity

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Abstract

To mark 25 years of Health & Place, we identify and appraise some key contributions to the journal over this period. We use citation data to identify 'classics' from the journal's back catalogue. We also examine trends in the international reach and disciplinary homes of our authors. We show that there has been a near 7-fold increase in the number of published papers between the early and most recent years of the journal and that the journal's citation levels are amongst the top 2% of social science journals. Amongst the most cited papers, some clear themes are evident such as physical activity, diet/food, obesity and topics relating to greenspace. The profile of the journal's authors is becoming more internationally diverse, represents a broader range of disciplines, and increasingly demonstrating cross/interdisciplinary ways of working. Although Anglophone countries have led the way, there is an increasing number of contributions from elsewhere including emerging economies such as China. We conclude with some comments on likely future directions for the journal including enduring concerns such as greenspace, obesity, diet and unhealthy commodities (alcohol, tobacco, ultra-processed food) as well as more recent directions including planetary health, longitudinal and lifecourse analyses, and the opportunities (and challenges) of big data and machine learning. Whatever the thematic concerns of the papers over next 25 years, we will continue to welcome outstanding research that is concerned with the importance place makes to health.

Introduction

This paper is one of a pair that, together with a set of commissioned Viewpoints, mark the 25th anniversary of the first issue of Health & Place. As with the companion piece (Green et al., 2020), we aim to take stock of what the journal has published, identify trends and offer pointers to future areas of potential interest. We begin by considering the papers that have attracted the most attention from the research community. Then, given the journal's sub-title, Health & Place: *an international journal*, we reflect on the international nature of the papers that have been published and consider the extent to which the journal's work is reaching across the world. These reflections are followed by a consideration of interdisciplinarity as a hallmark of work published in Health & Place. In contrast to Green's focus on textual analysis, we base our assessments on the analyses of bibliometrics and citation data.

Our aims and ambitions are not merely celebratory, though the success of the journal in building to its now well-established position deserves recognition. Rather, we seek to evaluate the extent to which the journal has met the ambitions articulated in its founding editorial (Moon, 1995). It was in that editorial that the ambitions regarding international scope and interdisciplinary reach were set out, alongside concerns for theoretical grounding, methodological innovation, substantive academic contribution and impact, and global relevance. In adopting this analytical focus, we see parallels with papers commemorating the anniversary events of other journals. In journals broadly cognate to Health & Place, recent examples include Ruano et al. (2017); Scambler et al. (2013); and Timmermans (2018). Various produced as editorials, introductions to anniversary special issues, or programmatic reviews of a subject-area, these other anniversary papers provide a wider context to the current paper through documenting methodological and thematic development in outlets that share the present journal's concern for population health.

In the following section, we briefly outline the material and methods that underpin our paper. We then turn to a discussion of our three key themes: the papers in Health & Place that might have become citation classics, evidence for an international focus and indicators of interdisciplinarity. Our conclusion speculates on trends and future directions.

Data and Methods

The 'data' underpinning this paper comprise all papers published by Health & Place between 1995 and 2018 inclusive. Though this stops short of being a full record of the papers published in the first 25 years of the journal's operation, it was the most complete annual record available to fit with publication schedules for the 25th anniversary edition. A total of 1916 papers were identified using Scopus. Advance acceptances were excluded as were papers with a post-2018 publication year. We limited attention to research papers and reviews, excluding editorials, viewpoints and book reviews. Full bibliographic details for each paper were obtained: author(s), date, title, issue, volume and pagination, affiliation(s), corresponding author details and citation count as of 1 July 2019.

We frame our discussion of successful papers in Health & Place largely in terms of the citations attracted by each paper. The advantages and disadvantages of citation analysis are well-known and we acknowledge the problems associated with the measure, not least as an indicator of 'quality' (Aksnes et al., 2019). In partial recognition of some of these problems, simple citation counts were enhanced by time-standardised citation measures: the number of cites per elapsed year since publication, and a ratio of the number of cites to the mean number of cites for papers published in the same year. We examined the ten most highly-cited papers using the first two metrics. To highlight emerging subject matter, we then examined papers from the most recent five years that are achieving four or more times as many cites as the mean annual number of citations. Finally, we considered the changing foci of successful papers by comparing papers with above average citations from the first and latest five years of the journal's history. Textual analyses employed the web-based packages Voyant (<https://voyant-tools.org/>) and Textalyser (<http://textalyser.net/index.php?lang=en#analysis>)

The examination of the international status of papers published in Health & Place is based upon an assessment of authors' countries of origin as extracted by Scopus software. A supplementary analysis using the same methodology identifies the main institutions contributing authors to Health & Place papers. We again compare the first and latest five years of the journal's history. Our assessment of interdisciplinarity uses the same approach, focussing on the main disciplines targeted by the journal (Epidemiology, Public Health, Geography/Environment, and Sociology). We supplement this analysis of interdisciplinarity with a consideration of the journals where Health & Place papers are cited and the journals that are referenced by Health & Place papers. Scopus was used to identify these partner journals from the 33,778 citing documents and the 66,862 referenced papers implicated in our base Scopus search. Collectively the citing and referencing journals form what we see as the community of knowledge within which Health & Place is located. For both international status and interdisciplinarity we again used Voyant and Textalyser for textual analyses.

'Citation Classics

Table 1 sets out the most highly cited papers in Health & Place using the two measures detailed above. With one exception, the papers are from 2000 or later when the journal had established its academic presence and achieved indexed status in the leading journal databases. Several of the

named authors might be seen as leaders within the disciplinary fields that are relevant to Health & Place and the levels of citation would fall easily within the top 2% for all academic journal papers in the social sciences as defined by the Scopus social sciences subject classification.

Table 1: Highly cited papers in Health & Place

Authors	Total Cites	Authors	Cites/Year
Walker et al. (2010)	517	Walker et al. (2010)	57.44
Lochner et al. (1999)	491	Caspi et al. (2012)	54.14
Feng et al. (2010)	437	Feng et al. (2010)	48.55
Caspi et al. (2012)	379	Ding and Gebel (2012)	37.57
Carver et al. (2008)	371	Maas et al. (2009)	34.30
Maas et al. (2009)	343	Carver et al. (2008)	33.73
Leslie et al. (2007)	334	Van Cauwenberg et al. (2011)	31.25
Armstrong (2000)	323	McCormack et al. (2010)	31.11
Reidpath et al. (2002)	317	Zenk et al. (2011)	30.62
Carpiano (2009)	287	Carpiano (2009)	28.70

An assessment of the titles of the 14 distinct papers identified in Table 1 reveals clear themes. First, half are reviews of some form. Health & Place has long been open to the consideration of review papers alongside methodological or original research papers, seeing reviews as vehicle for identifying thematic priorities, methodological best practice and key policy recommendations, and therefore providing an important service to the research community and other stakeholders. Second, over a third of the most cited papers are focussed on physical activity and its various health implications. This figure rises further if attention is extended to the wider obesity nexus (Moon and Kearns, 2019) and the presence of terms such as 'obesity', 'walkability', 'diet(ary)' and 'food'. This nexus has been a popular topic more widely amongst submissions to Health & Place for at least the past decade. Indeed the journal has moved to desk rejection of all but the most useful of reviews and the most fundamental of advancements to knowledge within the obesity nexus despite the undoubted potential utility of incremental and replication papers. Of the other top-cited papers, two focus on the related topics of green space and gardens while another two are concerned with methods and measurement, including better assessment of exposure to and understanding of local contexts using innovative approaches in the form of GPS measurements and go-along interviews.

Twelve papers from the period 2014-2018 inclusive have attracted more than four times as many cites as the mean citation rate for papers with the same publication year. These papers may be indicative of emerging themes, many with considerable potential for policy traction. Physical activity remains a key concern (Ewing et al., 2014; Koohsari et al., 2015) as does food/diet (Black et al., 2014; Lytle and Sokol, 2017). More prevalent however are papers on green and blue space (Chawla et al., 2014; Finlay et al., 2015; Nutsford et al., 2016; Van den Berg et al., 2016). It may be that Health & Place is establishing a distinct track record for research on this theme. The remaining emerging citation classics from recent years can be loosely linked to a concern for neighbourhood effects and their measurement (Groenewegen et al., 2018; Minh et al., 2017; Rosenthal et al., 2014) with Park and Kwan (2017) providing an important reminder of the confounding effect of mobility on exposure measures.

Of course, not all papers in Health & Place have achieved high levels of citation. Firm data are elusive but in broad terms across the sciences and social sciences, many papers only ever accrue citations in low single figures and some 10% may remain forever uncited (Van Noorden, 2017). Figure 1 charts,

for each year, those Health & Place papers that over their lifetime have received less than the mean number of citations for the year in question. It also indicates the number of uncited papers. Gratifyingly, there are few of the latter. They inevitably concentrate in recent years and may yet be well cited; just six papers over five years old have not been cited. In recent years, it is also clear that increasingly few papers, at least initially, do not exceed the mean number of citations.

Figure 1: Papers attracting few or no citations over time

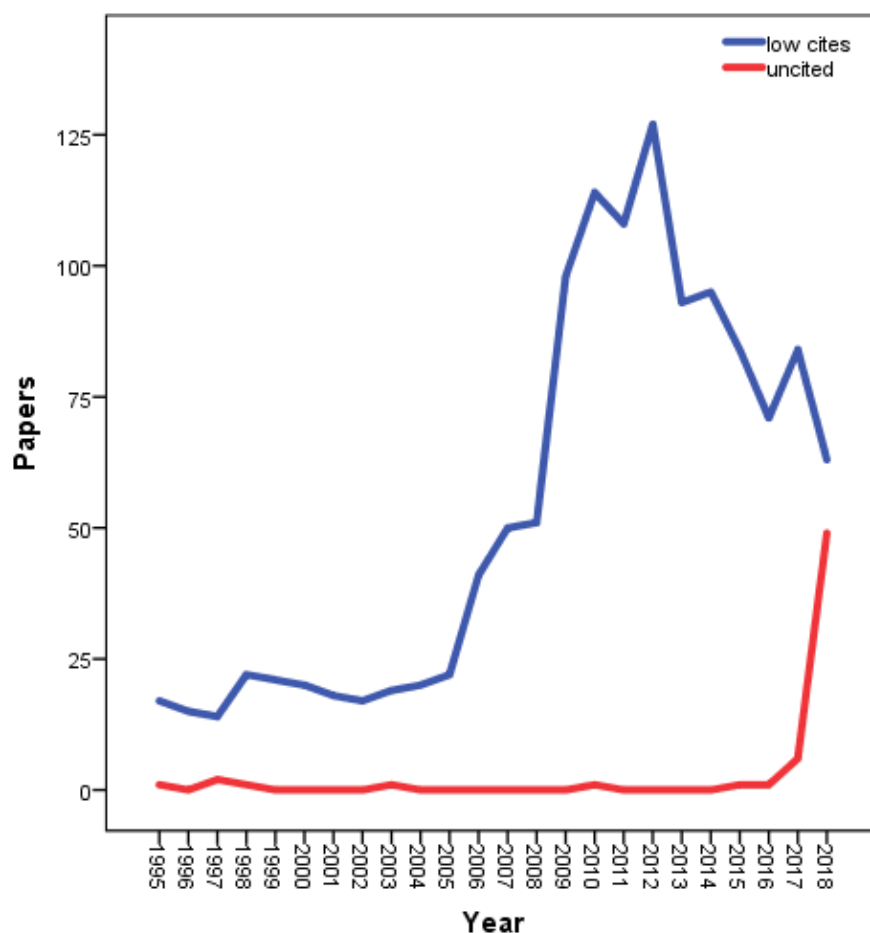


Table 2 examines how the thematic concerns of Health & Place papers achieving above average citation levels have changed between 1995-1999 and 2014-18. It is based on an analysis of word-phrases within the titles of what are arguably the most successful papers from the early years and most recent years of the journal. The vastly increased number of published papers is evident (a 7-fold increase). Initially the journal was limited to between six and eight papers per issue with a strict page budget. As printing technology evolved, the flow of high quality papers increased and the new approaches to publishing developed, the journal shifted, in line with many other journals, to issue-based publication. With this approach, accepted papers are published immediately online and an issue comprises all papers that are accepted by a pre-determined target date. It has enabled the publication of papers in a more timely fashion and increased throughput. The table shows clear differences but also continuities in the concerns of published papers. Mental health and social capital have been enduring focuses but, against wider trends (Baghaei and Ghaffarzadegan, 2017), HIV/AIDS has fallen away in terms of popularity. The emergence of the obesity nexus as a major focus of attention is markedly evident with titles referencing physical activity being by far the most prevalent in 2014-2018 and titles concerned with food environments, walkability and activity spaces also proving popular. Other title topics evident in the latter period point to concerns with study design (longitudinal studies) and the enduring interests in health inequalities. The word clouds integrated at the bottom of the table highlight single words prevalent in the paper titles from the two periods. In both cases place, space and location signifiers such as neighbourhood, community environment and geography are evident.

Table 2: Key concerns in Health & Place papers, 1995-1999 and 2014-2018

<p>1995-1999 (n=31 papers)</p> <p>Mental health (3)</p> <p>HIV/AIDS (2)</p> <p>Social capital (2)</p>	<p>2014-2018 (n=212 papers)</p> <p>Physical activity (29)</p> <p>Mental health (11)</p> <p>Food environment(s) (13)</p> <p>Built environment (10)</p> <p>Longitudinal study (8)</p> <p>Neighbourhood walkability (5)</p> <p>Neighbourhood characteristics (4)</p> <p>Activity space(s) (7)</p> <p>Green space (4)</p> <p>Blue space (4)</p> <p>Social capital (4)</p> <p>Health services (3)</p> <p>Income inequality (3)</p> <p>Air pollution (3)</p> <p>Therapeutic landscapes (3)</p>

Note: figure in parentheses refer to 2 or more mentions (1995-1999) and 3 or more mentions (2014-2019) with the difference reflecting the greater number of papers in 2014-2019.

The International Dimension

Since its launch in 1995, papers in *Health & Place* have involved authors from 77 different countries. Four countries have generated over 100 authorships: the United States (645), the United Kingdom (600), Canada (313) and Australia (203). This Anglophone emphasis reflects a common position in many journals (Grégoire et al., 1995; Kitchin, 2005), but is tempered somewhat by the presence of the Netherlands, Sweden Belgium and Spain in the top ten leading countries in terms of authorships. South Africa, China and Brazil lead among emerging economies, and Bangladesh and Kenya among less developed nations. The latter two presences reflect the impact of established health research infrastructures that have provided an underpinning to many of the implicated papers, notably the Matlab Health and Demographic Surveillance Site in Bangladesh and the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). Twenty-two countries, largely from the Global South, have provided a single author.

The Anglophone dominance among countries is naturally mirrored when it comes to a consideration of the institutions that feature most frequently as authorship affiliations. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is the most frequent institutional affiliation among Health & Place authors, closely followed by the University of British Columbia. The University of Toronto, the London School

of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the University of Melbourne make up the top five. The University of Ghent (Belgium) at joint 27th place is the highest placed non-Anglophone institution.

Table 3 indicates how international involvement in the journal has changed between the first five and the latest five years of the journal's operation with regard to all papers published, limiting attention to those countries implicated in more than 2% of papers. A total of 26 countries provided authors for the 123 papers published between 1996 and 1999. By some way, the most productive nation was the United Kingdom, providing authors for 64 papers. The United States and Canada contributed in roughly equal proportions as, at a slightly lower level, did Australia and New Zealand. The Anglophone emphasis of the journal was clear. Outwith the table, three nations were implicated in two papers: Finland with its rich epidemiological tradition, Indonesia via two large multinational studies, and, otherwise surprisingly, Mauritius through two papers in a special issue on island health. No other country contributed an author to more than one paper but countries were involved from all continents.

In our second period, 56 countries provided authors, over twice as many as in the years immediately following the launch of the journal though with a far larger number of papers. The earlier dominance of United Kingdom authors, perhaps reflecting the foundation of the journal in that country, fell away and authors from the United States assumed predominance. Canada and New Zealand retained their authorship shares but Australia doubled its contribution reflecting strong Australian involvement with the growth of research on the obesity nexus (Moon and Kearns, 2019). The remaining tabulated contributor nations point to a strong European contribution and the emergence of China as a research power.

Table 3: Authorship shares by country, 1995-1999 and 2014-20019 compared

1995-1999			2014-2018					
123 papers			666 papers					
Country	Papers	%	Country	Papers	%	Country	Papers	%
United Kingdom	64	52.03	United States	255	38.28	Denmark	19	2.85
United States	21	17.07	United Kingdom	190	28.52	Belgium	16	2.40
Canada	16	13.00	Canada	88	13.21	S. Africa	16	2.40
Australia	8	6.50	Australia	80	12.01	Germany	15	2.25
New Zealand	8	6.50	New Zealand	39	5.85	China	14	2.10
			Netherlands	35	5.25	Spain	14	2.10
			Sweden	23	3.45			

Disciplinary origins and Interdisciplinarity

As an initial indicator of interdisciplinarity, we focus on authorship. On this simplistic indicator, papers that are single-authored cannot qualify as inter-disciplinary. Single-authored papers are increasingly recognised as a rarity outside the humanities and a phenomenon that has reduced significantly in science journals (Abt, 2007; Weeks et al., 2004). It would be expected that they would consequently be unusual in Health & Place. This is indeed the case. In the first five years of the journal's life, 59 of the 123 paper were single authored (~48%). Conversely, in 2014-2019, the figure fell to 63 out of 666 papers (~9%). For comparative purposes the figure for papers featuring the large teams of five or more authors that increasingly characterise health research (see for example Tamblyn et al., 2016) has risen from 4 (~3%) in our earlier period to 295 (~44%) over recent years.

We next considered the disciplinary affiliations of multi-authored papers, searching for discipline names such as epidemiology, geography, sociology, public health and their synonyms (Table 4). This approach was not without its drawbacks and can be considered only indicative. For example, a single affiliation might reference two search terms as in the case of a department of epidemiology within a faculty or school of public health, some authors do not report an affiliation beyond a university name, and multiple authors with the same affiliation may report that affiliation only once. Nevertheless, it provides a broad picture of the mix of disciplines associated with the journal and how this has changed over time. The dominance of health/medical geography in the early years of the journal, reflecting the disciplinary origin of its foundation, has not continued into more recent years. A similarly reduced market share can be linked to health/medical sociology. In contrast, epidemiology and public health have maintained their level of involvement and the latter is now the single most common disciplinary affiliation.

Table 4: Disciplinary affiliation over time

Discipline	1995-1999		2014-2018	
	239 Authorships		3264 Authorships	
	Mentions	Index *	Mentions	Index *
Geography / Environmental Science	56	0.40	185	0.06
Epidemiology	5	0.04	177	0.04
Public Health	15	0.11	418	0.13
Sociology	11	0.08	70	0.02

* Note: Index is indicative only. It standardises the number of mentions by the number of authorships

Overall, some 16% of papers are a mix of the four disciplines noted in Table 4. Many more papers involve mixes of sub-disciplines within medicine or collaboration between disciplines not identified by the four key terms. Notable increases in recent years have been associated with Sports Science and broad Health Sciences departments, and with topic-focussed research centres concerned with diet, physical activity or environmental health.

For a firmer grasp of the changing interdisciplinary focus of Health & Place, we turn next to a consideration of the journals that are citing Health & Place papers. These citing journals indicate the outlets that are used by the community that also uses Health & Place papers. Table 5 compares the top twenty citing journals from 1995-1999 and 2014-2018. There were 2,679 citations in the earlier period and 4,859 in the later period; papers from the later period have had less time to garner citations. In both periods, papers were cited most frequently in Health & Place. On the one hand this indicates a certain introspection but, on the other hand, it points to the success of the journal in building a citeable focus. In the early period, Health & Place was joined by Social Science and Medicine in second place in the ranking of citations destinations, and together the two journals were by some distance the most popular journals in which to cite Health & Place papers. This dominance is not (yet) evident in the latter period, which has seen Social Science and Medicine fall marginally as a citation destination for Health & Place paper being superseded by the rise of the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (IJERPH), an open access journal launched in 2004.

Open access is an increasingly common characteristic of the journals where Health & Place papers are cited. This reflects both the general encouragement of open access by funding bodies and research assessment frameworks in the university sector and also the foundation of journals to address these imperatives. Open access journals are more prevalent in our second period. In addition to IJERPH, Table 5 indicates the roles played in the Health & Place community by PLOS One,

SSM Public Health, BMJ Open, and the BMC stable including the International Journal of Health Geographics. Three further aspects of Table 5 are worthy of note. General epidemiology and public health journals have retained significance across the lifetime of the journal. In contrast, geography journals have become less evident as sources of large numbers of citations as, from a lower base, have health sociology journals. Third, the most recent period has been strongly characterised by citations from specialist journals in diet, physical activity and environmental health / sustainability reflecting the volume of papers on these themes within the journal.

Table 5: The twenty journals citing the most papers from Health & Place

1995-1999			2014-2018		
2679 Citing Journals			4859 Citing Journals		
Journal	Ncites	%	Journal	Ncites	%
Health And Place	242	9.03	Health And Place	307	6.32
Social Science And Medicine	222	8.29	International Journal Of Environmental Research And Public Health	272	5.60
Journal Of Epidemiology And Community Health	47	1.75	Social Science And Medicine	140	2.88
BMC Public Health	32	1.19	BMC Public Health	129	2.65
International Journal Of Health Geographics	29	1.08	PLOS One	115	2.37
American Journal Of Public Health	28	1.05	Journal Of Transport And Health	71	1.46
Environment And Planning A	24	0.90	Preventive Medicine	64	1.32
PLOS One	23	0.86	Sustainability	61	1.26
Social And Cultural Geography	23	0.86	BMJ Open	60	1.23
Progress In Human Geography	22	0.82	International Journal Of Behavioral Nutrition And Physical Activity	50	1.03
Canadian Journal Of Public Health	21	0.78	Urban Forestry And Urban Greening	50	1.03
International Journal Of Environmental Research And Public Health	18	0.67	Journal Of Epidemiology And Community Health	45	0.93
Social Indicators Research	18	0.67	International Journal Of Health Geographics	43	0.88
Geoforum	17	0.63	Landscape And Urban Planning	43	0.88
Journal Of Urban Health	17	0.63	Journal Of Urban Health	42	0.86
Sociology Of Health And Illness	17	0.63	Environmental Research	40	0.82
Area	16	0.60	SSM Population Health	39	0.80
Canadian Geographer	15	0.56	Preventive Medicine Reports	37	0.76
New Zealand Geographer	15	0.56	American Journal Of Preventive Medicine	34	0.70
Health And Social Care In The Community	14	0.52	Public Health Nutrition	34	0.70

Table 6 identifies a second aspect of the Health & Place journal community, shifting from a focus on the journals that cite Health & Place papers to a consideration of those journals that are referenced in papers published in Health & Place. There is a far larger number of referenced journals in our second time period, reflecting the much larger number of published papers. Papers in the later period also have longer reference lists, perhaps reflecting improvements to bibliographic search technologies. The overall picture for referenced journals is similar to that for cited journals. Social Science and Medicine is the most referenced journal reflecting its broad coverage of social science perspectives on health research and common ground with Health & Place, notably with respect to health geography and social epidemiology. References to other papers in Health & Place have increased as the volume of material to reference in journal has risen. Otherwise the picture is one of a mix of generalist medical journals (eg The Lancet), sub-discipline journals in epidemiology or public health (eg Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, American Journal of Public Health), open access health journals, and subject-specialist journals (eg International Journal Of Behavioral Nutrition And Physical Activity). As with the citing journals, the geography presence has declined with only Environment and Planning A present in both periods. Rather than suggesting a declining relevance to health geography, this situation reflects the growing tendency for health geographers to publish most of their work outside geography journals, notably in Health & Place, Social Science and Medicine, International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, and the International Journal of Health Geographics.

Table 6: The twenty journals contributing the most references to Health & Place

1995-1999			2013-2018		
Number of references: 4799			Number of references : 28191		
Journal	Nrefs	%	Journal	Nrefs	%
Social Science And Medicine	146	3.04	Social Science And Medicine	949	3.37
British Medical Journal	71	1.48	Health And Place	803	2.85
American Journal Of Public Health	45	0.94	American Journal Of Public Health	423	1.50
Journal Of Epidemiology And Community Health	42	0.88	Journal Of Epidemiology And Community Health	356	1.26
British Medical Journal	41	0.85	American Journal Of Preventive Medicine	302	1.07
American Journal Of Epidemiology	29	0.60	Lancet	293	1.04
Lancet	25	0.52	BMC Public Health	264	0.94
Journal Of The American Medical Association	22	0.46	Preventive Medicine	215	0.76
British Journal Of Psychiatry	21	0.44	International Journal Of Behavioral Nutrition And Physical Activity	205	0.73
New England Journal Of Medicine	21	0.44	PLOS One	203	0.72
Area	20	0.42	American Journal Of Epidemiology	177	0.63
Health And Place	20	0.42	International Journal Of Epidemiology	167	0.59
Annals Of The Association Of American Geographers	19	0.40	Journal Of Urban Health	128	0.45
Gerontologist	19	0.40	Environmental Health Perspectives	121	0.43
Health Promotion International	19	0.40	Tobacco Control	116	0.41
International Journal Of Geriatric Psychiatry	19	0.40	International Journal Of Environmental Research And Public Health	114	0.40
Professional Geographer	18	0.38	Addiction	111	0.39
Transactions Institute Of British Geographers	18	0.38	Environment And Planning A	110	0.39
Environment And Planning A	15	0.31	International Journal Of Health Geographics	109	0.39
Progress In Human Geography	15	0.31	Journal Of Environmental Psychology	104	0.37

Conclusions

As it approaches its twenty-fifth year of publication, Health & Place can point to a clear record of publishing well-cited work from an increasing and very large international range of authors and a wide range of disciplines. It has published primary research and review papers that have become landmark papers and developed a particularly strong reputation as an outlet of choice for research on physical activity, food and diet, and green/blue spaces. More generally, papers in Health & Place

are increasingly well cited with the all of the journal's most cited papers (cites per year) appearing over the past decade. Over this period the journal's impact factor has trended upwards and in 2018 exceeded 3.0 for the first time. Our authors come from many countries and, though Anglophone nations dominate, papers have been drawn from every continent. A clear interdisciplinary appeal is evident and it is apparent that the journal is successfully meeting the need for an outlet dedicated to health and health care research that is sensitive to place, space, geography, location and community from epidemiology, public health, health services research, geography, sociology and a range of other disciplines.

In this paper, we have drawn extensively from Scopus records concerning the papers that have been published in *Health & Place*. While these records have some shortcomings that we have noted, our reliance on this source also leads to some silences. We do not have data to comment on the vast hinterland that lies behind the publication of papers. First, many more papers are submitted to *Health & Place* than reach final publication. Currently over 1100 papers are received every year. Managing this level of activity is challenging but also gratifying in that it clearly signals the success of the journal and the robust health of its disciplinary community. It also points to a second silence: there is a large peer review community that helps ensure that we publish high quality papers. Each of the 145 papers published in 2018 will have had at least two reviewers. It will often have taken five or more invitations to get two usable reviews. *Health & Place* has had four different review management systems since 1995. Three are now lost to history so sadly we cannot supplement our account with a consideration of those papers that have not been published or the operation of the review process. We do however welcome the strong continued copy flow and gratefully acknowledge the input of our committed reviewer community.

What then of the future? Clearly, what we publish will, appropriately and importantly, reflect the research concerns and directions of our international interdisciplinary community. In turn, these concerns will reflect changing academic directions and national and international funding and policy pulls. Trends are also likely to continue. With these points in my mind, we see *Health & Place* continuing as a key outlet for place-related research on physical activity, diet and food, and other health-related behaviours, notably smoking and drinking. Recent examples include Chambers et al. (2017), Moon et al. (2018), Shortt et al. (2017), Macdonald et al. (2018), and (Mooney et al., 2018). We also see a continuing key role for research on environments and health (eg. Mueller et al., 2019). More broadly, inequality as a theme, and neighbourhoods, activity spaces and communities as a spatial focus require ongoing attention (eg. Erdem et al., 2019; Fuller and Stanley, 2019), and there is a case for a renewed focus on care and policy analysis. Scale will be an important issue across these themes and in a number of ways, including how to better capture people's 'exposure' to different places through the daily lives and over the lifecourse (eg. Jivraj et al., 2019; Wilding et al., 2018). Attention can usefully focus upstream on wider economic, global and planetary determinants of health, and longitudinally on variations over time and over the lifecourse; large comparative studies across multiple national settings with distinct social, political or environmental contexts will also be welcome. Addressing this agenda will require methodological and theoretical sophistication, for example to exploit (and critique) the opportunities posed by big data and machine learning, and new approaches in social theory, and to understand how health outcomes eventuate in a complex, relational and intersectional world (Pearce, 2018). The journal will however continue to welcome all original research papers and reviews addressing a range of perspectives united by a concern for the difference that place makes to health.

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